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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Second special session
November - December 1992

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretariat

1. It may be recalled that the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1990/48 of 25 May 1990, authorized the Commission on Human Rights "to meet exceptionally between its regular sessions, provided that a majority of States members of the Commission so agree".

2. On 16 November 1992, the Ambassador of Turkey in Budapest (Hungary) addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights (see E/CN.4/1992/S-2/2) requesting him to convene immediately a meeting of the Commission on Human Rights in order to examine the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the former Yugoslavia (A/47/666-S/24809) which he has submitted to the General Assembly at its present session.

3. On 18 November 1992, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed a letter to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights stating that the Government of the United States "endorses and independently joins in the request of the Government of Turkey to convene the Commission of Human Rights in an exceptional session at the soonest possible date, to discuss the "dangerous situation in the former Yugoslavia" (see E/CN.4/1992/S-2/3).

4. On 20 November 1992, the members of the Commission were requested to indicate their wishes in regard to this request, with a view to ascertaining whether the majority of the members agreed to the holding of a special session. At the time of preparation of the present document, the following members of the Commission had indicated that they were in agreement: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Lybian Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zambia.

5. In view of the majority obtained, the Commission on Human Rights is convened in its second special session on 30 November 1992.

6. It will be recalled that at its forty-eighth session, the Commission elected the following officers, who will constitute the Bureau for the second special session:

Chairman: Mr. Pál Solt (Hungary)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Ronald Alfred Walker (Australia)
Mr. Sirous Nasseri (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mr. Mohamed Ennaceur (Tunisia)

Rapporteur: Mrs. Ligia Galvis (Colombia)

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

7. The Commission will have before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.4/1992/S-2/1) prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the annotations relating to the items included in the provisional agenda contained in the present document.

Item 2. Organization of work

8. The Commission will recall that at its first special session, it accepted the recommendation of its officers regarding the limitation of the duration of statements. Members of the Commission, observers and non-governmental organizations were limited to one statement of 10 minutes. It was also agreed that, with regard to rights of reply, the practice followed by the Third Committee of the General Assembly, namely a limitation to two replies, five minutes for the first and three minutes for the

second, would be observed. The Commission also accepted the recommendation of its officers that the requirement stipulated in rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council should be waived.

Composition of the Commission

9. The composition of the Commission for 1992 is the following. (The term of membership of each State expires on 31 December of the year indicated in brackets.)

Angola (1994), Argentina (1993), Australia (1993), Austria (1993), Bangladesh (1994), Barbados (1994), Brazil (1992), Bulgaria (1994), Burundi (1993), Canada (1994), Chile (1994), China (1993), Colombia (1994), Costa Rica (1994), Cuba (1994), Cyprus (1994), Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (1993), France (1992), Gabon (1994), Gambia (1993), Germany (1993), Ghana (1992), Hungary (1992), India (1994), Indonesia (1993), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (1994), Iraq (1992), Italy (1992), Japan (1993), Kenya (1994), Lesotho (1994), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (1994), Madagascar (1992), Mauritania (1993), Mexico (1992), Netherlands (1994), Nigeria (1994), Pakistan (1992), Peru (1993), Philippines (1992), Portugal (1993), Russian Federation (1994), Senegal (1992), Somalia (1992), Sri Lanka (1994), Syrian Arab Republic (1994), Tunisia (1994), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (1994), United States of America (1992), Uruguay (1994), Venezuela (1993), Yugoslavia (1992) and Zambia (1993).

Item 3. Letter dated 16 November 1992 from the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Republic of Hungary addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights and letter dated 18 November 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

10. These letters, on the basis of which the present session is convened, are circulated in documents E/CN.4/1992/S-2/2 and E/CN.4/1992/S-2/3 respectively.

11. In this connection, the attention of the Commission on Human Rights is drawn to the above-mentioned report of the Special Rapporteur (A/47/666-S/24809), as well as to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (E/CN.4/1992/S-1/10) and to the earlier report by the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1992/S-1/9), which is also available.

Item 4. Report of the Economic and Social Council on the second special session

12. Rule 37 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall submit to the Council a report, which shall normally not exceed 32 pages, on the work of each session containing a concise summary of recommendations and a statement of issues requiring action by the Council. It shall, as far as practicable, frame its recommendations and resolutions in the form of drafts for approval by the Council.